



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Geoconda Burbano, Department of Children and Family Services
Teresa Arevalo, Department of Children and Family Services
Carla Carr, L.A. County Auditor-Controller
Madeleine Kopp, Department of Probation
Commander Detta Roberts, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing
Mary Crouchet-Ragland, Community Care Licensing
Belinda Gilmer, Community Care Licensing

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaño welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Vice Chair Stathatos joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Detta Roberts distributed the updated Sheriff's Department Report on "Inmate on Inmate and Inmate on Staff Assaults".

Captain Warren Asmus announced that Captain Danny Sneed is officially retiring in early March, 2008 and that the Compton Courthouse is now accepting bids to have their air vents cleaned.

Probation Department:

Ms. Madeleine Kopp introduced herself as the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer for the Resident Treatment Services Bureau of the Probation Department and advised the Commission that the Disaster Preparedness Program has been revamped and the Department began conducting Disaster Drills in January 2008 at several Probation camps.

She distributed reports on "Emergency Response Drill: After Action Report", Emergency Response Drill Report: Camp Fred Miller", "Camp Evacuations", "Emergency Response Drill Scenarios and Audits for Camps Gonzales, Kilpatrick and Miller", and a report from San Diego University on "Youth on Youth Violence in Los Angeles County Juvenile Detention and Camp Facilities: A Comparative Analysis".

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Teresa Arevalo reported the following:

- The Department of Children and Family Services makes eligibility determinations for both DCFS and the Probation Department.
- The referrals are submitted to an Eligibility Worker, who makes a Court Report and a Minute Order.
- A payment for clients at group homes and Probation homes is initiated in 30 days; however, if a client is not eligible for State or Federal aid, the client must be paid by the Probation Department.

- If a DCFS case is not eligible for State or Federal aid, the County pays for the client.
- DCFS has received 1,200 referrals from the Probation Department, which averages to approximately 200 referrals per month.
- Authorization is required from DCFS and Probation in order for payments to be issued.
- For a client to be placed in transitional housing, the youth, his social worker and the group home must fill out an application and submit it to DCFS.

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

- There have been no Group Home closures since the last meeting.
- According to the Out of Home Care Division at DCFS, there were 44 referrals of physical and sexual abuse at group homes.
- Per the iTrack system at DCFS, there were 254 cases of runaways for the month of January 2008
- The Heritage Group Home does an excellent job of helping youths with finding jobs and home placement prior to the youths leaving the group home.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Candace Rhue reported the following:

- All group homes were in complete compliance with regulations except for Vista Del Mar and Aviva Graduate House.

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Internal Services Department: No representative was present.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Ms. Angelica Lopez reported the following:

- The HV Group Home has been experiencing payment problems since October 2007.
- The Children Are Our Future group home has had management and compliance issues.
- The Street Academy group home has relocated and at the present time has no clients placed in the home.

Chair Montaña and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 13, 2008 were approved, with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaño reported on the following two (2) articles and an event:

- "Rules Set For Anti-Gang Programs", Daily Breeze, February 16, 2008; regarding a DCFS report that lists a drop in runaway foster children from 505 in early 2006 to 285 in late 2007.
- "Superbug Staph Reports Required", Los Angeles Times, February 16, 2008, regarding staph infection outbreaks that occur at health care facilities.
- The funeral services for SWAT Officer Randy Simmons were held on February 15, 2008. The Crenshaw Christian Center was filled to capacity and the service was beautiful.

Chair Montaño thanked Commissioner Hall for the invitation to the "Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" on Sunday, February 17, 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$974.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services advised the Commission that the commendation letters to the Honorable Sheriff Baca for Deputy Kopp and Captain Olmstead were sent on February 13, 2008.

INVITED GUEST, JENNIFER LEHMAN, COUNTY COUNSEL

Jennifer Lehman, County Counsel, met with the Commission and discussed facility inspection activities. Ms. Lehman will return on the February 27, 2008 meeting for a closed session.

CORRESPONDENCE

An invitation to the St. Anne's Evening of Angels event to be held on April 5, 2008 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel was received.

**FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2008 TO
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Hope House – 29, #3 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on February 12, 2008, and found to be in outstanding condition.

Inglewood Juvenile Court – Commissioner Bacio

The facility was visited on February 14, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Facility needs to be repainted; toilet bowl is leaking and needs to be replaced.

Moore's Cottage – 38, #5 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on February 18, 2008, and found to be in poor condition.

Areas of Concern: Food supplies are low; computer isn't working; lint trap in dryer was full of lint; pool in backyard was backed up with stagnant water; air conditioning filter needs to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division